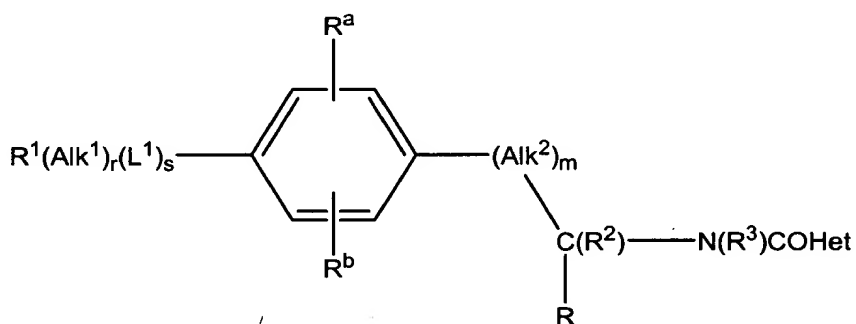


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)

A compound of formula (1):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid group or a an ester or amide derivative thereof;

R¹ is a ~~hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, straight or branched alkoxy, or optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, or polyheterocycloaliphatic,~~ C₆-C₁₂ aromatic group or a C₁-C₉ heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three, or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen;

Alk¹ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

L¹ is a linker atom or group selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)₂-, -N(R⁴)-, -OC(O)N(R⁴)-, -CSN(R⁴)-, -C(O)N(R⁴)-, -N(R⁴)CO-, -N(R⁴)C(O)O-, -N(R⁴)CS-, -S(O)N(R⁴)-, -S(O)₂N(R⁴)-, -N(R⁴)S(O)-, -N(R⁴)S(O)₂-, -N(R⁴)CON(R⁴)-, -N(R⁴)CSN(R⁴)-, -N(R⁴)SON(R⁴)- and -N(R⁴)SO₂N(R⁴)-;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1 ~~provided that when r is zero, R¹ is an optionally substituted cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, or polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;~~

R^a and R^b , which may be the same or different, is each an atom or group --

B' $L^2(CH_2)_pL^3(R^c)_q$ in which L^2 and L^3 is each a covalent bond ~~or a linker atom or group~~, p is zero or the integer 1, q is an integer 1, 2 or 3 and R^c is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from straight or branched alkyl, OR^d [~~where R^d is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group~~], $-SR^d$, $-NR^dR^e$, [~~where R^e is just defined for R^d and may be the same or different~~], $-NO_2$, $-CN$, $-CO_2R^d$, $-SO_3H$, SO_2R^d , $-OCO_2R^d$, $-CONR^dR^e$, $-OCONR^dR^e$, $-CSNR^dR^e$, $-COR^d$, $-N(R^d)COR^e$, $-N(R^d)CSR^e$, $-SO_2N(R^d)(R^e)$, $-N(R^d)SO_2R^e$, $-N(R^d)CONR^eR^f$, [~~where R^f is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group~~], $-N(R^d)CSNR^eR^f$ or $-N(R^d)SO_2NR^eR^f$;

R^d , R^e , and R^f are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl group;

Alk^2 is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or methyl group;

R^3 and R^4 , which may be the same or different, are each is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

Het is an optionally substituted nine- to thirteen-membered fused-ring heteroaromatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates, and N-oxides thereof.

2-3. (canceled)

B' 4. (currently amended) The A compound according to of Claim 1 wherein R is a $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ group.

5. (currently amended) The A compound according to of Claim 1 wherein Alk^2 is a $-\text{CH}_2-$ chain and m is the an integer 1.

6. (currently amended) The A compound according to of Claim 1 wherein each of R^2 and R^3 is a hydrogen atom.

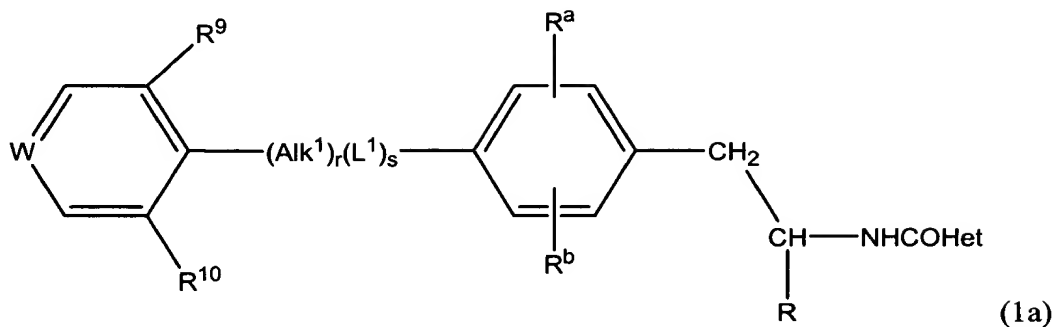
7. (canceled)

8 (currently amended) The A compound according to of Claim 1 7 wherein R^1 is an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrimidinyl group.

9. (currently amended) The A compound according to of Claim 1 wherein $(\text{Alk}^1)_r(\text{L}^1)_s$ is a $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NH}-$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$, or $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^4)$ group.

10. (currently amended) The A compound according to of Claim 9 wherein $(\text{Alk}^1)_r(\text{L}^1)_s$ is a $-\text{CONH}$ group.

11 (currently amended) The A compound according to of Claim 1 which has the formula (1a):



wherein $-W=$ is $-CH=$ or $-N=$, R^9 and R^{10} , which may be the same or different is each a $-L^2(CH_2)_pL^3(R^c)_q$ atom or group ~~as generally and particularly defined above, and Alk^1 , r , L^1 , s , R^a , R^b , R and Het are as generally and particularly defined above, and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof.~~

12-13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound
of according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers,
excipients or diluents.
